



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
OTTAWA, CANADA
K1A 0A6

OTTAWA, Ontario
April 3, 1990

Honourable Perrin Beatty, P.C., M.P.
Minister of National Health and Welfare
Room 312, West Block
House of Commons
OTTAWA, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Beatty:

I have recently been in contact with Mr. Chris Brown, a sufferer and advocate for those afflicted with environmental hypersensitivities. As you may know, these sometimes disabling disorders have in some cases been estimated to affect up to 20% of our population.

As a result in part of Mr. Brown's efforts, there has been some progress by the Canadian government in attempting to obtain a better scientific understanding of the illness.

However, due to the misunderstanding of the ailments by physicians, social assistance workers and the general public, those plagued with environmental hypersensitivities have suffered tremendously. Many have faced a loss of credibility or professional reputation, some have experienced marriage and family breakdowns, and there are at least five reported cases of suicide attributed, in part, to the frustration and depression caused by this lack of recognition and comprehension.

The Government has a responsibility to rectify the pejorative attitudes caused by past misconceptions. Mr. Brown has indicated that 95% of the concern for those with environmental hypersensitivities has to do with their status in the community. Public recognition and a more positive acknowledgement of these ailments would certainly help to alleviate some of the inequities which have existed and help to reduce these misconceptions.

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I hope you will give serious consideration to this request as many Canadians continue to suffer from unjust treatment as a direct result of these misconceptions.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'D. Walker', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Walker, M.P.
Winnipeg-North Centre
Critic for Human Rights

c.c. Mr. Chris Brown